From: Walt McElligott [wmcauth07@yahoo.com] Sent: Tuesday, September 09, 2008 9:09 PM

To: Tip

**Subject:** TIP Amendments

**CMAP** 

ATTN: TIP Amendments,

Sears Tower,

233 S. Wacker Drive

Suite 800

Chicago, Illinois 60657

I'm e-mailing, my comments on the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan for Northeastern Illinois.

First, i question how CMAP blindly goes along with IDOT officials concerning the alleged "need" for a regional South Suburban Airport (SSA).

Dr. Shea, of IDOT's Div. of Aeronautics hasn't even found the SSA important enough to make Daily Southtown-Star headlines lately.

In all honesty, as a resident of Beecher, IL, who likes to say on my blog that i live off Runway 9/27, I'm confused as to why efforts continue to keep this new SSA alive through the planning process.

After all, there are certain facts IDOT keeps hoping will go away if they just close their eyes to them:

- 1. As pointed out by 3 area township supervisors in a June 12, 2008 letter to the Chicago Tribune, an "independent airport need study" has never been done by the Illinois Dept. of Transportation in Eastern Will County, for a South Suburban Airport. These township officials have been the first and only parties to request an independent airport need study. A request, to which the state has not yet replied.
- 2. IDOT claims to have purchased approximately 2000 acres of some of the last best farm soil in Eastern Will County by the expenditure of various total sums of money. However, the majority of that land is noncontigous acreage that does not lend itself to the construction of the mile long runway necessary for the landing and taking off of cargo jet airplanes from China on a 24/7 (hours, day) basis.
- 3. IDOT has advised residents that Asian cargo air companies are the ONLY aircraft companies willing to talk to Illinois about sending their jet airplanes (with less pollution restricted aircraft) into Eastern Will Counties, four decade old proposal for a South Suburban Airport.
- 4. Upon seeing the latest IDOT plans, Mr. Jim Bult, owner of Bult (originally "Sanger") Field, responded, 'he had not been notified that he had turned his airport over to the state.' However, this is how the airport on which he has spent in excess of \$43 million of his personal funds in restoring the runway and building new hangars and equipment. All work done with the written approval of Will County and the state of Illinois. Since Bult surely has no intention of making his airport a gift to IDOT, perhaps Ms. Shea can advise where they will get the \$43 million to buy Bult Field, to include it in their alleged airport.
- 5. In case you're thinking, "eminent domain," may i remind you that Shea, in her promise of Dec 2006 to cooperate with area residents, has had her first & only "friendly" condemnation litigation in Will County courts for 6 months, without resolution. And, case number, 08ED11, Helena D. Hudgins, involves an 80-year old Chicago widow, and a small home, on 5 acres land in Monee, IL, next due on

the docket on Sept. 30, 2008. "Condemnation lawsuit seeks Peotone land for airport," By Guy Tridgell SUN-TIMES NEWS GROUP, made the media on March 13, 2008.

- 6. IDOT's own SSA web site makes the case for their declining interest in a "third" (actually 5th) area airport. IDOT was quite busy through 2006, spending taxpayer's funds on an airport that even former Gov. George Ryan once rejected. Then came 2007, & Shea & IDOT purchased one plat of EWC property. And, July 2, 2008, was the date of the only purchase they made this year.
- 7. According to information from the FAA office in Chicago, in an email dated, Friday, September 5, 2008,

From:

"Amy.Hanson@faa.gov" <Amy.Hanson@faa.gov> To: "Walt McElligott" <wmcauth07@yahoo.com>

The FAA is still awaiting the remaining portions of the Master Plan from IDOT. The FAA's EIS process is awaiting those materials before it can proceed.

Amy Hanson Environmental Protection Specialist Federal Aviation Administration office (847) 294-7354 fax (847) 294-7046 cell (847) 571-3425 amy.hanson@faa.gov

As is evident, Shea's claim that 'all necesary documents have been delivered to the FAA' is incorrect as of Sept. 5, 2008, almost 6 months after she notified the media it had been done.

Thanx for listening to (part of) my side of the story. Walter McElligott, Box 452, beecher, IL 60401